

ACTIVITY/MECHANISMS BUDGET SUMMARY  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Indian Health Service - 75-0390-0-1-551  
**EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTERS**

Program Authorization:

Program authorized by 25 U.S.C. 13, Snyder Act, P.L. 83-568, Transfer Act 42 U.S.C. 2001, and P.L. 102-573, Title II, Section 214.

	2000	2001	2002	2002 Est. +/-	2002 Est. +/-
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>2000 Actual</u>	<u>2001 Approp.</u>
Budget Authority	\$950,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,450,000	+\$500,000	0

PURPOSE AND METHOD OF OPERATION

Although acquisition of medical data through development of information systems is critical, just as important is the ability to analyze and interpret the data. Because most medical data are complex, simple reports automatically generated by computer systems cannot answer many questions posed by health professionals and administrators. Trained epidemiologists are needed to complete the system of health information for tribes and communities.

The innovative Tribal Epidemiology Center program was authorized by Congress as a way to provide significant support to multiple tribes in each of the IHS Areas. Beginning in FY 1996, four Centers were funded up to \$155,000 each. Since then, these centers have proven that the concept is sound and worthy of additional funding and expansion of the program. In response to a Request For Proposal in FY 2000, the four original centers were funded for another five years, and two new centers were funded. The annual level of funding for FY 2001 will be approximately \$207,000 for each center. This primary source of increased funding was a \$500,000 increase in FY 2001 earmarked for HIV research.

Operating from within tribal organizations such as regional health boards, the Epidemiology centers are uniquely positioned to be effective in disease surveillance and control programs, and also in assessing the effectiveness of public health programs. In addition, they can fill gaps in data needed for Government Performance Results Act and Healthy People 2010. Some of the four existing Epidemiology Centers have already developed innovative strategies to monitor the health status of tribes, including development of tribal health registries, and use of sophisticated record linkage computer software to correct existing state data sets for racial misclassification. These data may then be collected by the National Coordinating Center at the IHS Epidemiology Program to provide a more accurate national picture of Indian Health.